

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EUR-25 PC-10 USIE-00 IO-14 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7687

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 3924

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, CG, CD

SUBJ: DROUGHT IN CHAD

REF: STATE 151361

FROM: ADAMS AA/AFR

1. I SHARE DEPARTMENT'S AND AID/W CONCERN ABOUT
SITUATION OF DISTRESSED PERSONS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DROUGHT
SITUATION IN CHAD. IMPRESSIONS FROM MY CURRENT
OBSERVATIONS DURING VISIT, ADMITTEDLY BRIEF, OF REFUGEE/
DISPLACED PERSONS SITES AT NDAJEMENA, NIAMEY,
NOUAKCHOTT ALLOW ME CONCLUDE, AT THIS POINT, CHAD
POPULATION APPEARS MOST HANDICAPPED OF ALL. CAMP VISITED
OUTSIDE NDAJEMENA SHOWED PEOPLE IN WORSE PHYSICAL STATE THAN I
HAD EVER SEEN BEFORE INCLUDING SITUATION LAST OBSERVATION
SIX REGIONS IN MALI. ALSO CDC DOCTOR WHO WAS COMPLETING
NUTRITIONAL SURVEY IN CHAD INDICATED HIS PRELIMINARY
ANALYSIS GAVE IMPRESSION THAT OVERALL NUTRITIONAL SITUATION CHAD
SUCH THAT GENERAL POPULATION AND DISTRESSED POPULATION NOT
SEPARATED BY WIDE GAP. BY CONTRAST CDC MAURITANIA INDICATES
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NUTRITIONAL LEVELS THIS YEAR BETTER THAN LAST.

2. WHAT OUGHT TO BE DONE TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION? I WAS STRUCK BY THE OVERWHELMING ASSESSMENT OF THE ENTIRE DONOR COMMUNITY (ALL REPRESENTATIVES THAT I MET IN NDJAMENA) THAT CHADIAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS: 1. TO LACK CONSCIOUSNESS OF PRIORITY DISTRESSED SITUATION OF POPULATION REQUIRES, 2) CHADIAN MINISTER IN CHARGE OF DISTRIBUTION FOOD/RELIEF SUPPLIES NOT SO INADEPT BECAUSE HE IS UNINTELLIGENT, BUT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT REDELEGATE HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AND ATTEMPTS TO MANAGE EVERYTHING HIMSELF.

3. OVER SENSITIVE TO OUTSIDE ADVICE AS REFLECTED BY DIFFICULTIES THAT LICROSS REP EXPERIENCED IN GOVERNMENT'S REJECTION OF LICROSS INSISTENCE ITS OWN MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF ALL ITS RELIEF INPUTS. THE ONLY CONTRARY EXPERIENCE TO GENERAL VIEW ABOUT IMPOSSIBILITY OF EXTERNAL DONORS WORKING WITH CHAD GOVERNMENT CAME FROM CARE REP, WHO THOUGH NEW IN THE SETTING SHOWED ME LETTERS FROM CHAD GOVERNMENT PROVIDING EXTRAORDINARY AUTHORITY TO CARE TO ACT IN BEHALF OF CHAD'S DISTRESSED POPULATION AND ALSO FOR CARE TO BEFOME INVOLVED IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT. CARE REP EXPLAINED EXTRA-ORDINARY WELCOME THEY RECEIVED, WHICH INCLUDES CHAD'S GOVERNMENT PROVISION OF OFFICE AND STAFF HOUSING TO CARE PERSONNEL, MAY BE RELATED PERHAPS TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT EXPLANATION TO TOMBALBAYE OF HIS GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THE CARE PROGRAM IN LIBERIA.

4. PSYCHOLOGY OF CHADIAN SITUATION, THE WAY TOMBALBAYE AND HIS GOVERNMENT ACTS RE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES AND THE KIND OF NEGATIVE ATTITUDES THIS HAS GENERATED AMONGST EXTERNAL DONOR REPS CLEARLY AND EXTRAORDINARY CRISIS. LECTURING TO TOMBALBAYE ABOUT HIS SHORT COMINGS FROM ANY SOURCE LIKELY TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, EXCEPT AS GREATER INSIGHT THAN NOW APPEARS TO BE THE CASE IS SHOWN IN SYMPATHETICALLY RECOGNIZING THAT TOMBALBAYE DOES HAVE A DEFINITION OF THE SITUATION WHICH MAY NOT BE TOTALLY IRRELEVANT TO THE IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM PROBLEM CHAD FACES.

5. CHADIAN AUTHORITIES ARE LEGITIMATELY CONCERNED THAT
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RESPONSE TO THE NEEDY DOES NOT EMPLOY SOLUTIONS WHICH WILL INCREASE OVERALL DEPENDENCY OF POPULATIONS, NOR EMPLOY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH LESSEN NEED OF CHADIAN INDIVIDUALS TO DO MAXIMUM FOR THEMSELVES. MY IMPRESSIONS FOR EXAMPLE WERE THAT NEGATIVE REACTIONS BY CHAD TO LICROSS LAY IN LICROSS REPRESENTATIVES INSENSITIVITY TO THIS PROBLEM AND THE ASSUMPTION THAT TOMBALBAYE IS AN IDIOT IN TRYING TO GET A MOVEMENT FOR SELF-RELIANCE ON THE WAY WHILE HIS COUNTRY

IS DYING.

6. AND THE COUNTRY DOES RISK DYING* A GREATER DISTRESS MAY ARISE IF OUR APPROACH IGNORES THE ETHOS-OF THE SITUATION OR RESULTS IN OUTSIDERS ASSUMING THEY CAN IN FACT RUN CHAD BETTER THAN CHADIANS. OR IF THE APPROACH OVER SIMPLIFIES THE PROBLEM OF WHAT MAY BE BEST DONE AND BY WHOM. FOR EXAMPLE NUTRITIONAL PROBLEMS IN ONE CAMP I SAW SHOWED PERSONS WHO APPEAR TO BE WASING AWAY AND DRAMATIC OVERALL WEIGHT LOSS, BUT WITHOUT OBVIOUS EVIDENCES OF PROTEIN DEFICIENCIES. CHADIAN GOVERNMENT WAS CRITICIZED FOR NOT PUTTING THESE PERSONS IN NEARBY HOSPITALS. CHADIAN GOVERNMENT REASON FOR NOT DOING SO APPEARED CRUEL AND IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND. YET IN TRUTH PROVIDENTIALY IT COULD HAVE BEEN THEY ARE RIGHT BECAUSE THE CONTRIBUTION THAT THIS HOSPITAL AS CURRENTLY OPERATING COULD MAKE WAS MORE HANDICAPPING THAN AMELERIORATIVE.

7. DEMARCHE BY MOBUTU AND POSSIBLY TOLBERT MUST BE SENSITIVE TO POINTS ABOVE. ALSO WOULD PROPOSE ASSISTANCE PLANS THAT MIGHT BE OFFERED TOMBALBAYE INCLUDE AIR LIFT FOOD FOR CHAD NOW HUNG UP AT MAIDUGURI, PLUS HELICOPTERS FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION IN CHAD.

8. MY CONVERSATIONS WITH TOMBALBAYE DID NOT LEAVE ME WITH IMPRESSION THAT HE LACKS CONSCIENCE ABOUT PROBLEMS, OR THAT HE LACKS WILL. HAD IMPRESSION THAT HE FEELS OVERWHELMED AND BESIEGED BY RISKS OF INTERNAL SECURITY GETTING MORE OUT OF HAND, AS WELL AS PROBLEMS OF FURTHER DEGRADATION OF CHAD'S POSSIBILITY OF MANAGING ITS OWN DESTINY. HIS FEARS AND HIS INADEPTNESS AS WELL AS PROBLEMS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD'S ADMINISTRATIVE INCAPACITIES ARE COMPOUNDED BY THE UTTER PRIMITIVENESS OF THE CHADIAN INFRA-STRUCTURE WHICH IS A CONFIDENTIAL

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CRITICAL HANDICAP IN EFFECTIVELY RESPONDING TO HUMAN NEEDS- EVEN IF DROUGHT PROBLEMS DID NOT EXIST. MOREOVER ADMITTEDLY THOUGH ALL TOO FEW THERE ARE SOME CHADIAN OFFICIALS WHO ARE VERY SOUND AND VERY ABLE, FOR EXAMPLE LAMINA. AGGREY

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